



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
FIRE ENGINEERING DIVISION
1131 S Street
Sacramento, CA 95811
Web Site: <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov>
(916) 445-8476
(916) 445-8473 Fax



**CALIFORNIA STATE FIRE MARSHAL
FIRE SPRINKLER CERTIFICATION WORKGROUP**

Meeting Minutes

June 16, 2015

El Segundo Fire Department, El Segundo, California

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

WORKGROUP GOAL

To create regulation for the implementation of a certification program for individuals who perform the installation and maintenance of fire suppression systems.

STAFF

James Parsegian, Supervising DSFM
Jeff Schwartz, Deputy State Fire Marshal
DeeDee Garcia, Assistant Program Coordinator

MEMBERS PRESENT

Laura Blaul, Chairperson
Darryl Bolden, LA City Fire Department
James Carver, El Segundo Fire Department
*Patrick Chew, Roseville Fire Department
*Jose Colin, Woodland Fire Department
Randy Dysart, CALSAFE
Steve Fox, UA Sprinkler Fitters Local 483
Darrell Hefley, Jorgensen & Co
Bruce Lecair, National Fire Sprinkler Association
*Tom McKinnon, American Fire Sprinkler Association
Robert Rowe, Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board, Southern California
*John Upshaw, California American Fire Sprinkler Association
Wayne Weisz, Cen-Cal Fire Protection
*via conference line

MEMBERS ABSENT

Randy Roxon, Sprinkler Fitters Association, California

GUESTS PRESENT

Dale Hodell, UA Sprinkler Fitters Local 669
John Holmes, UA Sprinkler Fitters Local 709
Stan Smith, UA Sprinkler Fitters Local 483
Rick Vasquez, UA Sprinkler Fitters Local 709
Dwight Green, Accredited Training Solutions

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Laura Blaul at 10:00 AM on June 16, 2015.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Jeff Schwartz conducted a roll call and it was determined that we had a quorum.

DISCUSSION

Laura Blaul advised the workgroup that the regulations she sent out has since been revised by the Office of the State Fire Marshal staff. James Parsegian then asked the workgroup to review the final markup of the regulations that includes the changes that were voted on. He stated that he would like the workgroup to move forward with the package. The group took some time to read over the regulations and then began discussing a few items. Randy Dysart pointed out an issue with a bad code reference and asked for clarification with the Continuing Education CEU requirement. Jeff Schwartz explained that the OSFM wanted to make sure a person could not avoid taking CEUs and re-apply every three years.

Randy also wanted clarification on a few other items in the regulations to make sure he was satisfied with them. Other group members and the OSFM staff helped to discuss and clarify these questions. John Upshaw left the meeting at 10:30 AM.

Tom McKinnon asked for clarification on the timeframe for Section 949. Implementation Period and Historical Recognition to sunset. The group discussed that it was going to be 18 months, or 545 days as stated in the regulations.

Jeff Schwartz advised the workgroup that "California" would be added to the language in the regulation clarifying that the Sprinkler Fitter Apprentice Program was to be one in California.

Patrick Chew left the meeting at 11:00 AM.

The workgroup thoroughly discussed regulation language and made small changes to make it as clear as possible so there would be no issues in the future.

James Carver made a motion to approve the regulation language and move the package forward to the AES Committee. Steve Fox seconded the motion. VOTE: All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Jeff Schwartz reminded everyone that the AES Committee meeting is going to be held next week in Elk Grove at William Perry Schulze Fire Training Facility, 10573 East Stockton Boulevard, Elk Grove CA 95624 if anyone not on the committee wanted to attend.

NEXT MEETING

TBD. A conference line will be available.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned by Chair Laura Blaul at 11:18 PM.

AES Chapter 5.5**Automatic Fire Extinguishing Systems Certification****Article 1. Administration****920 Authority.**

Chapter 5.5, Division 1 of Title 19 of the California Code of Regulations is adopted by the State Fire Marshal under the authority of Division 12, Part 2, Chapter 1, Section 13110, of the Health and Safety Code of the State of California.

921 Title.

These regulations and standards shall be known as the "Regulations and Standards of the State Fire Marshal", may be cited as such, and will be hereinafter referred to as "these regulations".

922 Purpose.

The purpose of these regulations and standards is to improve the quality of water-based fire protection systems by providing a means to certify and register and person who installs, alters, repairs or adds appurtenances to such systems.

923 Scope.

(a) These regulations apply to work consisting of the installation, alteration or repair of all water-based fire protection systems and installation of all: piping or tubing; appurtenances and equipment pertaining thereto. Which includes both overhead and private fire service mains and associated appurtenances; standpipes and hose connections to sprinkler systems; including common risers which feed both hose cabinets and sprinkler systems; sprinkler tank heaters; air lines to include all tanks, pumps connected thereto, and mist systems.

(b) Installation and modification of one and two-family residential sprinkler systems is excluded from these regulations.

Article 2. Definitions**924 "A" Definitions.**

(a) Apprentice. A person who is currently in a California State or Federally approved fire sprinkler apprenticeship program.

(b) Alteration. Repairs or upgrades to existing systems.

924.1 "C" Definitions.

(a) Certified. A journeymen sprinkler fitter and/or individual who possess an active State of California Contractor State License Board Fire Protection Contractor (C-16) license, has met the pre-requisite training and/or experience in accordance with Section 947 and possesses a certificate issued by the by the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

924.2 "D" Definitions.

(a) Direct Supervision. On-site supervision.

924.3 "F" Definitions.

(a) Fire Sprinkler Trainee. A person or individual working in the fire protection industry installing water-based fire protection systems on an entry-level position shall work under the direct supervision of a Certified Fire Sprinkler Fitter at all times. The individual will be indentured or have applied for a California State or Federally approved fire sprinkler apprenticeship program within 12 months from the date of hire. The individual may perform work within the scope of these regulations up to 90-days from date of hire prior to registering.

(b) Fire Sprinkler Fitter. Includes Journeyman, Fire Sprinkler Apprentice and/or Trainee who performs work as described in Section 923 of this Chapter.

924.4 "I" Definitions.

Installation. All work as described in Section 923 of this Chapter, including, but not limited to new, retrofit, modification, and repairs.

924.5 "J" Definitions.

(a) Journeyman. A person who has successfully completed the required hours and years in a California State or Federally approved fire sprinkler apprenticeship program.

924.6 "M" Definitions.

(a) Multifamily residential structure. A residential occupancy with three (3) or more units and up to, and including, four (4) stories in height.

924.7 "R" Definitions.

(a) Registered. A trainee and/or apprentice who has met the applicable prerequisites, completed the required documents, submitted applicable fees, and has been registered by the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

(b) Repair. To restore to sound working condition or to fix damage. Does not include work up to \$500 pursuant to the Contractors State License Board (CSLB).

Article 3. General Provisions**925 General Provisions and Fee Schedule**

(a) No person shall engage in the installation of water-based fire protection systems as described in Section 923 of this Chapter, without having first submitted an application, fees and all documents necessary to demonstrate compliance with, and having obtained, a Certification, or in the case of an Apprentice or Trainee, a Registration card, from the State Fire Marshal, in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter.

(b) Every certification and registration card fee required in accordance with the provisions of Section 13110 of the Health and Safety code shall be paid in legal tender, or by money order or postal note, or valid personal check made payable to "CAL FIRE/OSFM". The fee shall accompany each application for an apprentice registration card or certificate of registration.

(c) Every fee shall be paid at, or mailed to, CAL FIRE / Office of the State Fire Marshal Cashiers Unit / AES Program, P.O. Box 997446, Sacramento, CA 95899-7446.

(d) Fees for application or renewal of any Certification or Registration Card issued pursuant to this chapter shall be as follows:

(1) Certification	\$135
(2) Apprentice Registration	\$135
(3) Trainee Registration	\$135
(4) Annual renewal application	\$135
(5) Application for renewal of a certification or registration which has expired	\$135
(6) Replacement Certificate or Registration	\$25
(7) Late fees (50% of application fee)	

926 Maximum Number of Directly Supervised Employees.

A Certified Fire Sprinkler Fitter can supervise up to two (2) Apprentices and one (1) Trainee.

Article 4. Enforcement

927 Violations.

The State Fire Marshal, or code official having jurisdiction, may inspect project worksites where work on fire protection systems is being performed to ensure that persons performing that work possess valid certifications and registrations as required by this Chapter. The State Fire Marshal or code official having jurisdiction is authorized to require persons performing that work to provide proof of applicable certification and/or registration.

928 Prosecution of Violations.

If the notice of violation/correction notice is not complied within a reasonable manner, the fire code official is authorized to issue a Stop Work Order as defined in Title 24, California Code of Regulations, Part 9, California Fire Code.

929 Stop work order.

When the State Fire Marshal, or fire authority having jurisdiction, determines that the installation of water-based fire protection systems is being performed in violation of this Chapter and after providing reasonable notice, he or she may issue a stop work order as defined in Title 24, California Code of Regulations, Part 9, California Fire Code. Work within the scope of this Chapter shall not be resumed until a full investigation has been undertaken and verification has been made that all work on the fire protection system in question has been performed by duly authorized persons.

930 Report of Violations.

Any action taken by a local entity against a registered Trainee, Apprentice, or Certified Fire Sprinkler Fitter shall be reported to the State Fire Marshal within 15 days of the action.

931 Penalties

(a) The State Fire Marshal may revoke or suspend a certificate or reprimand a certificate holder for any violation of this Chapter or of rules or regulations of the State Fire Marshal issued pursuant to this Chapter.

(b) (1) Any person who violates any provision of this Chapter, or any applicable rule, regulation, permit or other order of the State Fire Marshal, may be subject to a civil penalty for each act or violation.

(2) Each day a person performs work on a fire protection system without the appropriate valid certification or registration shall constitute a separate violation.

(c) Any person licensed under Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 7000) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code who violates any provision of this chapter shall be subject to Section 7110 of the Business and Professions Code and, accordingly, may be subject to disciplinary action by the Contractors' State License Board.

(d) Any person who knowingly or willfully violates this chapter or any applicable rule or regulation adopted pursuant to this chapter, may be charged with a misdemeanor.

932 Denial, Revocation, and Suspension.

(a) The State Fire Marshal may order revocation or suspension pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500), Part 1, Division 3, Title 2 of the Government Code.

(b) The issuance or renewal of a certification or registration may be denied by the State Fire Marshal for any of the following reasons:

(1) The applicant is not the real person in interest.

(2) Refusal to allow inspection by the State Fire Marshal, his duly appointed employees or the local fire authority having jurisdiction.

(3) The applicant for certification or registration does not possess the qualifications to conduct the operations for which the application is made.

(4) The applicant for certification or registration will be disqualified from processing if he or she was convicted of any provision of this chapter or Health and Safety Code as outlined in Section 13104.

(c) The denial, revocation or suspension of a certification or registration may be ordered by the State Fire Marshal for any violation of Section 13197.5, Health and Safety Code.

933 Deceptive Practices.

As defined in Chapter 5, Section 903.1

934 Employer Responsibility.

Every properly licensed contractor performing installation of water-based fire protection systems shall ensure all fire sprinkler fitters under their employment are certified or registered.

Article 5. Certification and Registration

935 Expired Documents.

Application for renewal of a Trainee and/or Apprentice Registration, or for a Certification, which has expired, shall be considered as an original application.

936 Minimum Ages.

A Trainee and/or Apprentice Registration or Certification shall not be issued to any person under 18 years of age.

937 Duplicate Issuance.

The State Fire Marshal may issue a duplicate Trainee/Apprentice Registration, or Certification upon receiving application and fee as prescribed in Section 926. A written statement describing the reasons for the duplicate issuance request shall be submitted by the certificate holder or registrant before duplicates will be issued. The statement shall explain fully the reason for the destruction or loss of the Certificate or Registration card.

938 Fire Sprinkler Trainee.

(a) A person not registered for an apprenticeship program may be registered with the State Fire Marshal's Office as a Fire Sprinkler Trainee and work within the scope of these regulations as a Trainee for up to one (1) year from hire date.

(b) If the Trainee does not qualify for an apprenticeship program within one (1) year from his/her hire date, the individual will no longer be classified as a Trainee nor be allowed to work within the scope of these regulations.

939 Apprentice Registration

(a) A person holding an Apprentice Registration may perform acts within the scope of this Chapter.

(b) Persons possessing an Apprentice Registration shall only perform installation of water-based fire protection systems for the properly licensed contractor.

(c) An Original Apprentice Registration card shall be valid from the date of issuance through December 31st of the year in which issued. Thereafter, each Apprentice Registration shall be renewed annually and renewals shall be valid from January 1st through December 31st.

940 Certification

(a) A person holding a Certification may perform tasks within the scope of this Chapter.

(b) Persons possessing a Certification and performing installation of water-based fire protection systems may perform only those tasks, which the certificate holder is authorized to perform and for which the person is qualified.

(c) An Original Certification shall be valid from the date of issuance through December 31st of the year in which issued. Thereafter, each license shall be renewed annually and renewals shall be valid from January 1st through December 31st.

941 Examination Procedures.

- (a) Every person, prior to performing any task or tasks within the scope of a Certification, shall pass a written examination in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter.
- (b) Any applicant who has failed the examination may re-apply and take another examination not less than fifteen (15) days from the date of the first examination, after filing a new application and paying the required fee.
- (c) Every three (3) years, at time of renewal, proof of the applicant's Continuing Education units shall be reviewed. If it is determined the applicant has not satisfied the required minimum Continuing Education units, the applicant shall complete an additional Continuing Education and reapply for Certification and shall successfully pass a written examination.
- (d) Any applicant failing to take an examination within thirty (30) days of application for that examination shall be required to re-apply for the intended examination with payment of appropriate fees.
- (e) Every person taking an examination for Certification shall have the right to contest the validity of individual questions in such examination.
 - (1) Upon conclusion of the examination process, the person taking the examination may request review of the test with staff of the Office of the State Fire Marshal.
 - (2) Any challenge as to the validity of individual questions of an examination must be made in writing within 72 hours of receiving the results of said examination. Challenges shall state the reason for the objection.
 - (3) The decision as to the action to be taken on the submitted challenge shall be by the State Fire Marshal and such decision shall be final.
 - (4) The action taken by the Office of the State Fire Marshal shall be reflected in all future examinations but shall not affect the results of any past examination.
- (f) Application for renewal of certification, which has expired, shall be considered as an original application.
- (g) The Office of the State Fire Marshal shall track all Trainee and Apprentice Registrations and all Certifications in a database designed to link all aspect of the Automatic Extinguishing Systems Program and be web accessible.

942 Possession of Trainee Registration.

Proof of Trainee Registration shall be carried whenever working as described in Section 923 of this Chapter.

943 Possession of Apprentice Registration.

Proof of Apprentice Registration shall be carried whenever working as described in Section 923 of this Chapter.

944 Possession of Certification

Proof of Certification shall be carried whenever working as described in Section 923 of this Chapter.

945 Renewal of a Trainee Registration, Apprentice Registration and Certification.

(a) Application for Trainee Registration, Apprentice Registration and Certification renewal shall be made on or before November 1st of the year in which the current certification/registration expires. If application is not received by November 1st a late fee will be incurred as prescribed in Section 925. Application for renewal shall be made in writing on forms provided by the Office of the State Fire Marshal and shall be accompanied by the fees prescribed in Section 925.

(b) Application for renewal of a registration that has expired shall be considered as an original application.

Article 6. Certification and Registration Qualifications**946 Examination Requirements.**

(a) A Certification application must be accompanied by the following:

- (1) Documentation that the applicant meets the minimum time requirements of this Chapter and that training was obtained through a State or Federally approved Apprenticeship program.
- (2) Documentation that applicants from out-of-state meet the minimum time requirements and have been evaluated pursuant to these requirements by a State approved apprenticeship program and placed in such program as appropriate
- (3) Proof of prior certification for applicants who have been certified but allowed certification to lapse. Such applicants may take the examination without meeting the requirements of (1) and (2) above.

(b) An applicant for Commercial Certification shall meet the following minimum qualifications:

- (1) 7000 hours in a State or Federally approved apprentice program
- (2) Five (5) years of experience within the scope of these regulations

(c) An applicant for Multi-family Residential Certification shall meet the following minimum qualifications:

- (1) 3500 hours in a State or Federally approved apprentice program
- (2) Two (2) years of experience within the scope of these regulations

948 Continuing Education.

Certified fire sprinkler fitters must receive 24 hours of State Fire Marshal approved education within a three (3) year period, verified by the Office of the State Fire Marshal every three (3) years. If proof of compliance is not received at time of renewal on the third year of the three (3) year period, the certified fire sprinkler fitter will be required to re-apply as a new applicant.

949 Implementation Period and Historical Recognition.

These provisions shall supersede the examination and Certification/Registration requirements of Section 947 of this Chapter.

(a)(1) Journeyman sprinkler fitters and/or individuals who possess an active State of California Contractor State License Board Licensed Fire Protection Contractor (C-16) who meet the requirements of Section 948 within 180 days of the effective date of this Chapter shall not be required to take an examination.

(2) Historical Recognition

(A) An application for Certification must be accompanied by the following documentation for the applicant to meet the minimum qualifications:

1. Commercial:

- i. 7000 hours verified work experience
- ii. Five (5) years working within the scope of these regulations.

2. Multi-family Residential

- i. 3500 hours verified work experience
- ii. Two (2) years working within the scope of these regulations

The employment hours must be verified by a letter certifying the experience from the fire sprinkler fitter's employer or an alternate method approved by the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

(3) No Certification card shall be required within 365 days of the effective date of this Chapter.

(4) Commencing on the 366th day of the effective date of this Chapter there shall be a minimum of one (1) certificate holder certified individual on each job site.

(b) Apprentices sprinkler fitters shall possess a registration card mandated by this Chapter within 18 months (545 days) from the effective date of this Chapter.

(c) This section, shall sunset on the 18 months 546th day from the effective date of this Chapter and all requirements must be met.

OSFM AES Certification Regulations Workgroup

Tuesday, June 16, 2015

BOARD MEMBER	CONFIRMED	ROLL CALL						VOTE - ACTION ITEMS						
		TIME:		TIME (Joined/Left)	TIME:									
		PRESENT	PH		PRESENT	PH								
1. Darry Bolden		Y												
2. James Carver		Y												
3. Patrick Chew			Y	Left 1000	1100	Y								
4. Jose Colin			Y	0915										
5. Randy Dysart		Y	Y											
6. Steve Fox		Y												
7. Darrell Heffley		Y												
8. Laura Blaul			No	Voting	Privilege									
9. Bruce LeCair		Y	0930											
10. Tom J. McKinnon		Y												
11. James Parseigan			No	Voting	Privilege									
12. Robert Rowe		Y												
13. Randy Roxson		Y												
14. Jeffery Schwartz			No	Voting	Privilege									
15. John Upshaw		Y		Y 1030										
16. Wayne Weisz		Y												
Guest														
TOTAL														
QUORUM (9)		YES / NO			YES / NO		M=Motion	2=Second	A=Abstain	P=Pass	F=Fail			

APPROVE TEXT
Amended
And MOVE
FORWARD

201905 Green
Date Oct
Rick Uasguez
John Hollings

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